

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

DRC-01 /136 W

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R 021901Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1127

S E C R E T SANTO DOMINGO 3178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DR

SUBJECT: STRIKES AND OPPOSITION INTENTIONS

REF : SD 3074

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, OPPOSITION LEADERS INDICATED THAT SOME SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTY LEADERS (HARD-LINERS) HAVE NOW GIVEN UP HOPE OF REACHING AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND INSTEAD OPTED TO DEVOTE ALL THEIR EFFORTS TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL LEAD TO HIS OVERTHROW. IN THESE CONVERSATIONS, OPPOSITION LEADERS OPENLY ADMITTED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN, AND ARE, ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING THE SERIES OF STRIKES WHICH HAVE AFFECTED SECTIONS OF SANTO DOMINGO AND THE INTERIOR CITIES. STRIKES AND STOPPAGES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY SOME VIOLENCE. ON JULY 29 THERE WERE TWO MINOR BOMBINGS IN SANTO DOMINGO AND ON JULY 30, A POLICE CORPORAL WAS KILLED, APPARENTLY FOR POLITICAL MOTIVES. ACCORDING TO OPPOSITION LEADERS, "HARD-LINERS" ENVISAGE THE STRIKES AND STOPPAGES AS A CATALYST WHICH WILL OBLIGE DOMINICAN MILITARY TO REMOVE BALAGUER IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ORDER. TWO SANTIAGO ACCORD LEADERS TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THEY HAVE MADE "SIGNIFICANT" INROADS AMONG MILITARY LEADERS AND THAT WHEN BALAGUER IS

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OUSTED, OPPOSITION WILL COOPERATE WITH ARMED FORCES IN

SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF ANY WEAKENING OF BALAGUER'S POSITION VIS A VIS MILITARY. NOR HAS EMBASSY HEARD OF ANY ARMED FORCES DISPOSITION TO OVERTHROW HIS ADMINISTRATION. OUR EARLIER ASSESSMENT THAT OPPOSITION AT THIS TIME DOES NOT HAVE WHEREWITHAL TO OVERTHROW BALAGUER STILL HOLDS.

3. HARD-LINERS' WILLINGNESS TO ACKNOWLEDGE INTENT TO WORK TOWARD FORCIBLE OVERTHROW OF BALAGUER, AS INDICATED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, COULD, HOWEVER, LEAD TO GOVERNMENT REPRISALS SINCE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS PLANNING FOR SUCH ACTION JUSTIFICATION FOR DEPORTATION, OR WORSE. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR SANTIAGO ACCORD'S OTHERWISE INEXPLICABLE WILLINGNESS TO TELL US OFFICIALS OF THEIR INTENTIONS TO TOPPLE BALAGUER IS THAT THEY WISH TO USE EMBASSY TO PRESSURE BALAGUER TO NEGOTIATE WITH SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTIES. OPPOSITION LEADERS MAY REASON THAT USG SO FRIGHTENED BY THREAT OF OVERTHROW OF BALAGUER THAT IT WILL "FORCE" HIM TO RESPOND TO THEIR DEMANDS.

4. SEPARATE MEMCONS WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS FOLLOW BY POUCH.
HURWITCH

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NNN

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